The dispute between the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa on Jhanjawati Project is regarding demarcation of interstate boundary for assessment of actual area of submergence.

The Project report on Bahuda project prepared by the Government of Andhra Pradesh was not in accordance with the inter-State agreement with Orissa which *inter alia* specifies that storage in Andhra Pradesh on Bahuda river would not involve any submergence of Orissa territory, but allows Andhra Pradesh construction of some ancillary works needed for functioning of the storage scheme on Orissa territory. Modified report is still awaited from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

A number of official level meetings have been held in Central Water Commission with the officials of State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa to resolve the above issue

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have also met in June, 1992 and again in December, 1994 to resolve the issues. The last Ministerial level meeting between the two States on this was held on 1.2.1997 at Bhubaneshwar.

[Translation]

Blind Persons

*129. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of blind persons have increased sharply in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any plan for their treatment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of blind persons likely to be benefited by the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) According to the National survey conducted in 1986-89, there were about 12 million blind people in the country. No nation-wide survey has been undertaken thereafter to estimate changes in the number of blind persons in the country.

(b) and (c) The Government under National Programme for Control of Blindness have chalked out the following schemes to be implemented during the IX Five Year Plan Period : –

(i) Strengthening of existing infrastructure for eye care through Establishment of District Eye Care Mobile Units.

(ii) Strengthening of Community Health Centres/ Sub-district Hospitals and assistance for setting up or expansion of Eye Care Units and Eye Banks in Voluntary Sector.

(iii) Strengthening management of eye care programme at Central and State level and setting of District Blindness Control Societies throughout the country.

(iv) Strengthening of school eye screening programme for refractive errors.

(v) Development of Human Resources through technical and managerial training.

(vi) Need-based and appropriate activities relating to Information, Education and Communication to generate demands for eye care.

(d) During the 9th Five Year Plan about 175 lakh people are likely to be benefited through Cataract Operations.

[English]

Hindustan Shipyard

*130. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Hindustan Shipyard has become the first shipyard in the country to receive the IS 9001;

(b) if so, the main quality of parameters of IS 9001;

(c) whether the shipyard will be able to provide quality products and services after receiving IS 9001; and

(d) if so, by what time IS 9001 will be applicable to the shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to ISO - 9001. Yes, Sir. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. is the first Public Sector Shipyard in the country to receive ISO - 9001,

(b) The main parameter of ISO : 9001 is the model for quality assurance in design development, production, installation and servicing for shipbuilding in conformity with international standards.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While it is not mandatory to obtain ISO: 9001, accreditation to the international standard is an added advantage for the Yard.

[Translation]

Research Work to control Population Growth

*131. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the research carried out to check the problem of increasing population in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds proposed to be earmarked for this purpose for the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the nature of research work being carried out at present in various institutes of the country in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any long term policy for research work to check the increase in the population; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) An amount of Rs. 41.68 crores has been spent during 1992-96. For 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 13.25 crores has been allocated for the purpose.

In addition, Department of Biotechnology has released a sum of Rs. 5.12 crores towards research for development of contraceptive vaccines.

(b) Not yet finalised.

(c) A statement indicating details of R&D measures presently in progress to improve Family Welfare Programme and birth control measures being carried out in different institutes is attached

(d) and (e) A National Committee on Research in Human Reproduction has been coordinating research activities in the field of contraception and family welfare and directing them towards priority areas of national interest.

Statement

Indian Council of Medical Research

Research is being conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research through its 33 Human Reproduction Research centres (in Medical Colleges) and through Institute of Research in Reproduction, Mumbai. The following research projects are in hand:

(a) Injectables : Phase-II clinical trial and pro-introductory studies with the two monthly injection Net-en has been completed.

(b) RU 486 (the abortion pill) : Phase-II clinical trial is being initiated by Institute for Research in Reproduction at Mumbai.

(c) Gonadal Peptide : Phase-I clinical trial is being initiated by the Institute for Research in Reproduction at Mumbai.

(d) Intra Nasal Spray of Norethisterone: Phase-I clinical trial is under conduction.

Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow

(a) Spermicidal Cream 'Consap' - Phase-II clinical trial has been completed and Phase-III clinical trial has been initiated.

(b) Screening of plant products for identification of new contraceptives is ongoing.

National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi

(a) Neem Oil - Phase-I clinical trial is under conduction.

(b) Female vaccine - Phase-II clinical trial is under conduction.

Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore

(a) Male Vaccine - Phase-I clinical trial is under conduction.

(b) Anti Pregnancy Vaccine - Studies being conducted on animals.

Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi

Reversabie Vas Occlusion of the tube carrying sperms in males.

(a) Phase-I clinical trial has been completed.

(b) Phase- II clinical trial has started at three centres.

Research under Ayurveda System

Phase-II clinical trial with Ayurveda Drug *Pippalyadi Yoga* has been approved to be carried out at two centres.

Research under Unani System :

Two coded drug MH-2 and MH-18 have been identified which have shown potential anti fertility properties for further studies.

Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway

*132. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Haryana and Rajasthan Government in regard to widening of Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Union Government to solve this dispute;

(c) whether the work of conversion of the National Highway No.8 into four lanes from Delhi to Ajmer would be completed this year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The portion of the National Highway No. 8 from Delhi to Gurgaon, is already four laned. However, from Gurgaon (in Haryana) to Achrol (in Rajasthan) that is from